

From John L. Clark, 616 Amity Street, Homestead, Pa.

JOINT AGREEMENT BROKEN IN 1942

BY NEGRO AMERICAN LEAGUE.....

By C. W. Posey, Secretary
Negro National League

Late Saturday, May 1st, I received a special delivery letter from Dr. J. B. Martin, President of the Negro American League, stating tha ~~Player~~ Bell of Memphis Redosx and player Shields, traded to Kansas City Monarchs at the last meeting of the Negro American League, had appeared in the lineup of Homestead Grays, and that he would like to hear from me, personally, about this.

I replied to Dr. Martin that I would follow a precedent set by him and asnwer his letter via the sports pages of newspapers.

Why all this fuss about players of the Negro National League in the Negro American League and players of the Negro American League in the Negro National League?

The one thing that Dr. J. B. Martin neglected to do was to take into consideration the statement President Tom Wilson made in Chicago on August 17, 1942, on the occasion of a joint meeting of the Negro American League and Negro National League.

President Wilson stated: "The Negro American League has broken the joint agreement between the two Leagues. This decision was made after the Negro American League clubs had played the Ethiopian Clowns.

The jpoint agreement clearly stated that "no club of the Negro National League or Negro American League shall play the Clowns."

President Tom Wilson asked why President J. B. Martin of the Negro American League had permitted the clubs of the Negro American League to play the Clowns.

Dr. J. B. Martin stated that he had called a meeting of the Negro American League after he had agreed not to play the Clowns and that he and other club owners had voted to play the Clowns. This was done without notifying President Tom Wilson of the Negro National League that this action had been taken.

2--Joint Agreement Broken

President Tom Wilson then, definitely, made the statement, breaking off friendly relations between the two Leagues. He further accused the Negro American League President of permitting Cleveland Buckeyes to lure Pitcher Boone from New York Black Yankees and using Catcher Roy Campanella and second baseman Sammy Hughes in the Cleveland lineup on August 8th, 1942-- during the official season of the Negro National League.

President Tom Wilson had consistently bent over backwards to keep friendly relations between the Negro American League and the Negro National League. He did this despite the fact that Dr. Martin completely ignored him at the 1941 East-West game, when in some manner, Dr. Martin had received both Leagues' share of the East-West game from Comiskey Park and deposited it in the personal checking account of Dr. J. B. Martin.

We of the Negro National League have never been satisfied, because no itemized report was ever received from Dr. J. B. Martin or Comiskey Park concerning this game. We did receive a statement, written with lead pencil, from Dr. Martin with figures of the net receipts.

It would suffice if the President of the Negro American League would read the minutes of the Negro National League and Negro American League joint meetings for the past four years. The consistency of violations of this agreement was brought to a head on August 17th, when President Tom Wilson of the Negro National League, made the above charges.

If Dr. Martin's memory goes back that far, he will recall that the Secretary of the Negro National League and Ed. Bolden, Vice President of the Negro National League, walked out of the joint meeting when Tom Wilson's charges were not denied by the President of the Negro American League, or any member of the Negro American League.

The joint agreement has not been renewed since that meeting.

3--Joint Agreement Broken

Dr. J. B. Martin can certainly call off the East-West game in Chicago as he stated in Washington, D. C., on April 12th, 1943 "that it was not necessary to do any more talking about the East-West game--as the President of the Negro American League was operating that game.

Dr. J. B. Martin should quit faking and attempting to confidence people who have been in baseball before he received national prominence by leaving Memphis--his home town.

Should Dr. Martin have remained the one who does the antics when the strings are pulled by owners of Kansas City Monarchs and Abe Sapperstein, he would have made few mistakes. Originality and Dr. Martin are strangers.

Homestead Grays and Phila Stars will likely return any players claimed by the Negro American League clubs when Kansas City Monarchs return Satchell Paige to Newark and other stolen players in the Negro American League to the Negro National League--and publicly apologize to the President of the Negro National League for breaking the joint agreement between the Negro National League and the Negro American League.

We have the minutes of joint meetings since 1938, if these statements are termed accusations.

Yours,

C. W. Posey

C. W. POSEY, Secretary

Negro National League

May 2, 1943